Meeting of States Parties

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Seventeenth Meeting
New York, 14 June and 18-22 June 2007

Election of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, addressed a note dated 5 December 2006 to States parties inviting them to submit from 15 December 2006 to 14 March 2007 the names of candidates whom their Governments might wish to nominate for the election of members of the Commission, together with statements of qualifications of such candidates.

2. In the note, the Secretary-General brought to the notice of Governments article 2, paragraph 1, of annex II, which provides that the members of the Commission shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II, the submission of nominations should be made after appropriate regional consultations.

3. By the same note, the Secretary-General reminded States that the first election of the members of the Commission had been held in 1997 at the sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and that the second election took place in 2002 at the twelfth Meeting of States Parties. The Secretary-General further informed the Governments that the term of office of all current members of the Commission had begun on 16 June 2002 and will end on 15 June 2007.

4. He also recalled that article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II to the Convention provides that elections of the members of the Commission shall be held at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters, and that, by the decision of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties (19 to 23 June 2006), the third election of members of the Commission was included in the provisional agenda of the seventeenth Meeting, which will be held in June 2007.

5. Nominations closed on 14 March 2007. A list of all the persons nominated, in alphabetical order, with an indication of the States parties that have nominated them, has been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of annex II to the Convention and will be circulated to all the States parties following the closure of nominations (SPLOS/150). The curricula vitae of

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the candidates will be circulated in advance of the opening of the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/151, to be issued). At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Commission shall be those nominees who obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes of the representatives of States parties present and voting.

6. Article 2, paragraph 3, of annex II also provides that not less than three members of the Commission shall be elected from each geographical region. In this connection, it is recalled that, at the twelfth Meeting of States Parties, after consultations and in accordance with the understanding reached by the twelfth Meeting on 18 April 2002, for the purpose of conducting the second election, the members of the Commission were elected as follows: four members from the Group of African States; six members from the Group of Asian States; three members from the Group of Eastern European States; four members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and four members from the Group of Western European and Other States (see SPLOS/91, para. 97).

7. In paragraph 22 of resolution 61/222, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York on 14 June and from 18 to 22 June 2007, bearing in mind that the current term of office of the members of the Commission expires on 15 June 2007, and to provide the services required. In paragraph 23 of that resolution, the Assembly called upon States parties to transmit to the Secretariat the credentials of representatives attending the Meeting as far in advance as practicable, and no later than 13 June 2007. In view of the foregoing, the elections of the members of the Commission shall be held on 14 June 2007, on the first day of the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties.

8. In accordance with article 2, paragraph 4, of annex II, the members of the Commission shall be elected for a term of five years and shall be eligible for re-election.

9. Article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II stipulates that the State party that submitted the nomination of a member of the Commission shall defray the expenses of that member while in performance of Commission duties. The coastal State concerned shall defray the expenses incurred in respect of the scientific and technical advice referred to in article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of annex II to the Convention.